

# MAINE FARMER, AND JOURNAL OF THE ARTS.

"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

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## THE FARMER.

E. HOLMES, Editor.

### GRAVEL IN SWINE.

To the diseases with which swine are sometimes afflicted, a neighbor says we may add the Gravel. Mr. E. Marrow of this town had a hog not long since that died with a disorder somewhat uncommon, and upon opening it, was found there a large stone or calculus in the bladder which had caused its death. We hardly know what would be the best remedy for this disease in a four footed hog, but would recommend a trial of spirits of turpentine sweetened with honey, or honey and Resin.

### BREAKING STEERS OF THE TRICK OF RUNNING AWAY.

Almost every farmer who has traded much in oxen, knows what a peculiar vexation it is to have a pair of steers or oxen that are good in the race. We have sometimes seen cattle of this description that will walk very demurely to their work, and while the drivers attention is turned from them a moment to prepare to "hitch on," they will put up their heads and set off "topspeed," leaving you in the lurch to "pull after them," or pull the load yourself. It is of no use to cry *whoa* or *woe*—They seem to say to you, as an Old Colony boy we wot of once told his father, "the more you scold, the more the won't come." Some wreak their vengeance upon them when they do catch them, by using up the goadstick over their backs. This only makes the matter worse. We once knew a good hearted old farmer who broke his yoke of oxen of this trick by taking a pocket full of *nubbins* of corn, and when he came up with his flying stags, as he called them, spoke peaceably to them, and treated them bountifully to the contents of his pockets. In this way, when they started and he called for them, they learned that his shouts, instead of being a signal for a "mauling," were in fact an invitation to "stop and take something to eat." All oxen however are not so docile as this, and all drivers not so benevolent as to return good for evil in this way, even if they had the corn to spare.

Another mode has been told us of breaking oxen of this desire of taking French leave, and one which has often proved successful. A farmer who had exchanged oxen with another, found that he had come into possession of a pair of real "cut and run" fellows; a pair that were not slow neither, nor very particular as to the time or occasion of shewing their speed to their new proprietor.

Being in the woods one day, and just ready to hitch on to a log, they started for home, and he after them in pursuit. The oxen having many feet the start of him, and more feet to apply as locomotives, soon won the race, and wouldn't "heave to" till the barn yard brought them up. The owner said nothing to them when he arrived, but supplied himself with an extra number of chains, and drove them quietly down again to the woods. He then put all the chains he had together, put one end round a tree and backing the oxen up hooked them on—and then turned away to other business. In a few minutes the oxen started again and being elated with their former success—started with more "steam" than at first; little thinking that they were moored by a chain cable. They had made but a leap or two, and begun almost to shout for victory, when—crack O! they came to a dead stand, and their necks were almost broken by the suddenness of the check. The farmer then moved them to another

tree—fastened one end as before, and coiled the slack of the chain at the roots.

As soon as the pain was a little over they thought they would try a new "gallopade." Hardly had they got a fair start when the chain began to straighten, and they were brought up again "all standing." This was too much for even the "patience of an ox," and one of them "roared right out" with pain and vexation, and they probably mentally resolved to reform their habits, for they never tried to run away again.

### WHAT IS THE PINDAR OR GOUBER PEA?

A writer over the signature of J. J. in the "Mississippi Farmer," speaking of the several articles used as food for hogs, says—"Another excellent plant for hogs, and one easily cultivated, is the *pindar* or *gouber* pea. The yield of this pea is most astonishing, being at the rate of six to eight hundred bushels to the acre, if properly cultivated. A venerable and experienced planter of Madison county, Maj. Vick, as I have understood, has been for a number of years practising what cannot but be an excellent plan in the cultivation of this plant. He plants it with his corn, between the hills, and after the same cultivation, leaves it untroubled to turn his hogs upon in the fall; The advantages which I conceive this pea to possess over any others are these; it does not rot on the ground, (as the pea forms itself on a stem which runs under the ground,) and what is of great moment to many of us who have thin lands, the rooting of the hogs for the pea turns under the grass and vines which make a fine manure."

Now we wish to know if this pea is an annual or perennial? Does it require rich or light land? What is the time or period required for its growth, and can it probably be cultivated so far north as Maine? Will the Editor of the Franklin Farmer, Southern Cultivator, or some of our southern or western friends enlighten us upon the subject?

### GRASS SEEDS.

The Editor of the Boston Cultivator says that he has tried Lucerne in Maine and in Massachusetts, but without success. We know of some others who have tried it with the same success—that is—no success at all. He also states some experiments with the tall meadow oatgrass (*Avena elatior*.) He observes:—

We have made several trials of the tall meadow oatgrass—the *Avena elatior* of Botanists.

We found it was recommended by Col. Taylor, E. Phinney, Esq. and some others, and our first trial was with three bushels of seed to the acre, and the cost of this seed was nine dollars—but we soon found we had not sown it thick enough! We then saved about 7 bushels of the seed from this acre and sowed the whole on one acre in the following spring, and no other seed was sown with it.

This last acre was a light, gravelly soil and we have now mown the grass four years. The honey suckle is introducing itself among the oatgrass, but in many spots we see nothing but the oatgrass. We have never cut more than one ton to the acre, though the land would have borne one ton and a half of red clover.

The oatgrass grows tall in rich land and is quite prolific in seed—it must be cut, in this latitude, by the middle of June, or at least two weeks sooner than red clover—it starts early in the spring, and unlike herbage-grass it starts again soon after mowing, affording a good bite of full feed,—with these advantages it is still far inferior to herds-grass—it holds long in dry and light soils but is not so marketable an article as our herds-grass—it will not weigh so well—and we are much inclined to think that neither the hay nor the grass is so nutritive as our good old friend, the herds-grass."

We also have made a few trials heretofore with this

grass. It will grow well in this State, and is valuable for an early and a late grass.

There is another grass which ought to command more attention than it does—among those who have bog land which they can render dry by ditching. It is the foulmeadow grass. We have not a specimen by us at this moment but we believe the botanical name is *Agrostis Stricta*—though we will not speak with certainty now. It may be only a variety of the Red top (*agrostis vulgaris*.) By whatever name it may be called it is nevertheless a very valuable grass. Our friend Major Wood, who has done as much as any other man in this vicinity in reclaiming bogs and rendering them profitable, sent us a communication which was published in our 6th volume and which we republish for the benefit of some of our new subscribers.

MR. HOLMES:—I have been requested by a number of Agriculturists, to commit the result of my experience to writing, and to communicate to the public through your useful paper on the subject of raising the true Fowl Meadow Grass, and I attempt, not expecting, however, to do the subject justice.

There are a number of kinds of Grass that have been called by that name, there is but one, however, in my own opinion to which it properly belongs. Not knowing its botanical name, I will endeavor to describe the kind that I call the true Fowl Meadow Grass. It has a long and small stalk, generally lays bent all in one direction before it is cut, when it is not shaded, the stalk or stem is green, although the seed may be ripe.

It sends out a number of seed or flower branches like the red top, or as it is sometimes called Rhode Island Grass of which it seems to be a species or variety. It grows very thick; is very productive of seeds which are exceedingly small.—When they are rubbed out and cleared from the chaff they are of a reddish color. There is another variety which has been lately brought from Vermont, the stems and seed of which are larger than the kind of which I am speaking. The Vermont variety seems to be well suited to our swaly land and does well to mix on our boglands, but its value is not to be compared to the true fowl meadow grass on land that it will grow on to advantage. When the soil and situation suits, it is the easiest grass to raise that I ever raised and the most profitable. On land that does not suit it, you will find it almost impossible to raise it. The public may need a caution not to purchase what I call the spurious kind instead of the genuine seed.

On suitable land it may be sowed very thin; even a quart of clean seed to the acre, and on the second or third year, it will have spread to such a degree as to be thick enough. It propagates in two ways and even three. One way is by the seed, another by tillering or by suckers, and a third way is when it bends down it will throw out a root at every joint. It may be better to sow it of a proper thickness at first, which may be about a peck of clean seed to the acre. It may be raised on light clayey soils that are sufficiently dry and rendered light by horse manure, &c. Sand does not seem to agree with it. An island in a stream made up of sawdust and clay has produced it largely. Mud or bog land made light and kept so by Hackmatack or larch roots in the soil, or by frequent flowing is decidedly the best land to raise this grass upon. On such land I have raised three tons to the acre, and I think that it will produce the most value in fodder, per acre, of any grass that I am acquainted with. It is said it will thrive well on all boglands, when a large growth of flat grass will grow, if rendered light and dry by suitable ditching. It is valuable for feeding stock, for working oxen in the spring to do the spring's work with, oxen so fed have performed their labor in the best manner, as well as when fed upon the common English hay, so called.

One word in regard to reclaiming meadow land. I have taken a lesson from the beavers and ditched, im-



mediately across the stream and across the meadow throwing the mud up stream which makes a kind of beaver dam. Or I have made cross ditches, then stopped them and ascertained how far I could flow by the embankment. Then cut another ditch and so on until I have flowed the whole.

E. WOOD.

Winthrop, March, 1838.

Original.

#### AGRICULTURAL PAPERS, &c.

MR. HOLMES:—At this time, when so many "new improvements" in the Arts and Sciences, as well as almost every branch of human industry, are put forth to the public, under the most imposing titles and captivating language, I think it will not be out of reason to throw out a few hints to my brother Farmers, to be on their guard, and not suffer themselves to be imposed upon, by interested persons, in the sale of some of these "new improvements" which are almost daily, or at least every week, brought before the public—however specious may be their pretensions to the patronage of the community—For sir, it is a fact, which cannot be controverted, and the more reflecting part of the community already perceive it, that we live in a day of humbuggery, or in other words, at a time, when there are men, who are determined to take the advantage of the more ignorant, by ushering to their notice, this thing, or the other, as "a great" or "decided improvement" in this or that branch of business, or something which is "new" or "well deserving attention." This is done in various ways, but in none perhaps, more successfully, or in which we Farmers, are made to feel so sensibly, as through the medium of some of the "Agricultural" journals of the days and especially those, which are published by persons, who are directly interested in the sale of those very articles or "improvements" which are advertised, and to which, our "particular attention is invited" by the Editor, under his editorial head.

You are aware sir, that there are many journals published, with the imposing title of some "Agricultural" term, in order to disseminate the advertisements of the proprietors, for the sale of these articles, or improvements, kept in their "Agricultural establishments, Seed Stores" or "Ware houses," and their great usefulness, is thus, trumpeted forth every week to the community. This is also done too, by persons who are sometimes hired at a certain price per week, or year, to conduct these journals, and I am sorry to state, that rich persons are found too, who are willing thus to lend their talents, and to prostrate their dignity, to aid in this species of deception, whereby, we ignorant farmers are deceived, and thus deprived of some portion of our hard earnings.

Then sir, we are made the dupes of this class of people, by first subscribing, and paying for their paper, thereby furnishing them with the very means to deceive us, and are led to purchase, some of their "new improvements" or "valuable seeds" and finding, that we have been cheated, after it is too late to apply the remedy, and in our turn, by thus lending our patronage, help deceive others.

Not that I would be understood as discouraging the circulation of *Agricultural Journals* in the least, for I most earnestly wish that they might be increased ten fold or even more. But I would advise every Farmer to use the utmost caution, and subscribe for those papers, and those only, which have no connection whatever, with any "Agricultural Ware house" "Seed establishment" or the like, unless they are under the control of such persons, whose standing in society are such, as to be a sufficient guarantee to place them above suspicion, in resorting to any of these "artifices" or "tricks of trade" which are so boldly pursued by some.

If sir, we should adopt this course, we should soon drive these worse than useless publications from circulating amongst us, not but that they may contain something which is valuable, but they are at the same time loaded with articles, in the shape of "editorial," "communications," or "advertisements" calculated to gull the public and deceive the community. And by lending them our patronage, we encourage them to pursue this species of deception, until by bitter experience we find, we have been imposed upon, when perhaps, our minds have become prejudiced, not only against this, but every other "Agricultural" Journal. We then discontinue that paper, and refuse, or neglect to subscribe for any other, thereby depriving ourselves, of the benefits to be derived, from well conducted journals of this description, and we do not stop here, but suffer our prejudices to extend to every improvement, without in any way, testing its advantages—thereby depriving ourselves of that kind of information & knowledge, which it is all important that we should have, in order to carry on our business to advantage.

In order to remedy this evil, I wish to exhort all my brother Farmers, not to subscribe for, or in any way lend assistance, to journals of this description, but to patronise such, and such only as are Edited by a person, who is acquainted with the business of practical agriculture, and one too, who is unwilling to prostrate his talents for "hire" to conduct a weekly paper, and

lend the credit of his name, to a journal, which is published by those, who are directly interested in the vending of all articles which are advertised by them as well as praised by the Editor who is paid a stipulated price for doing it.

We want a paper published by a person, who is not a Proprietor or Copartner in any "Agricultural warehouse" "Seed Store" or "Deposite of Farmer's Seeds and tools" and edited by a gentleman, who will not consent to lend the sanction of his name, to puff any article whatever, any further than its real merit and intrinsic value will warrant. Such papers there are published, and to such we ought to afford support.—They are the vehicles, which serve to convey to us, a vast fund of information, and will pay us all they cost four fold.

Garland, March 5, 1840.

ASA BARTON.

Original.

MR. HOLMES:—I acknowledge what may seem to you my remissness, in not noticing before a communication in your paper of the 8th February, by "A Subscriber and friend to Farmers." But as he stated in one of his communications, how that he "once took an old farmer aside, and gave him such a lesson that he never will forget it as long as he lives"—I thought it better to wait awhile, until he should cool off a little. I now venture to make a reply, and I am now sure, that his last communication does not help my understanding in the least. For he was so "ashamed of old farmers" in his first communication, I formed the opinion, that he merely threw in his thoughts of the 30th November last, in order to give the public notice, that he had "had partly the care of two large farms, and his hands building a very large flour mill, with four runs of stones and three bolts besides, that it is the best mill in the State."—And also, that we old farmers might see, that he was a second Solomon in his construction. So upon reflection, I do not wonder at all, that he only gave an account what he had been about for only one half of the year, and I am again willing to acknowledge my dulness of comprehension, for I do not now conceive how he found time even for that. Neither do I wonder, that he should say, "I did not comprehend the right hog," and that his "calculations was based on the hog the old farmer carried to market," when I consider all the circumstances of the case. Although he says that he "told him (the old farmer) how he worked it once. I went to market (says he) with a hog, and the most I could get was 7 cents per pound; I bought a barrel for two shillings and salted it down. In three days time, I carried my salt pork to the same market, and obtained 12 1-2 cts. per lb." Here Doctor is his statement of the hog, and he shows us how he "told the old farmer he worked it once," and no doubt truly. But then this was before he built the best grist mill in the State. However, he says "figures wont lie," and you will just please to notice Doctor, that he says he saved twenty eight dollars and sixty three cents by salting the hog, in his communication alluded to. And in his condescension to give me instruction, he makes it out by "figures" which "wont lie" sixteen dollars and fifty cents. But in his great haste to afford me light, he forgot to take into the account the salt, barrel and waste, which he once told the "old farmer" was four dollars and twelve cents. Take this sum from his sixteen dollars and fifty cents, and it leaves twelve dollars and thirty-eight cents, just what I happened to make it in my calculation, so you see, dear Doctor, "that figures wont lie."

This friend to farmers says "he sold his pork this season for 12 1-2 cents per lb. and in his statement, that it would bring but five cents either at Augusta or Bangor. But in his reply to me, he says he sold his pork last June. I wish he had told us what pork was worth at both of these places last June. Why had he not have stated that he sold his wheat for four dollars per bushel, as it was worth that price in 1816.

Now, Doctor, I am a plain old farmer, and do not expect from any friends of farmers, "tricks of trade," but a plain unvarnished tale—and such I took your Palmyra correspondent to be.

March 30, 1840.

A. B.

Original.

#### THE JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

MR. HOLMES:—The above variety of Artichoke is known and cultivated in this State. I have lately seen a statement in relation to it from a western paper, which has led me to furnish this article with a view of calling the attention of your readers to the subject of cultivating it in our State as food for swine, &c., if we shall find it adapted to our soil, situation, and climate. It is well known that the Artichoke is not injured by frost; it may therefore be suffered to remain over winter in the ground, and when once planted, and it fairly gets "under way," it will grow for a succession of years, on the same ground, without the nec-

essity of re-planting or any culture—fairly obtaining the mastery of the weeds—and yielding a very considerable crop.

I know nothing of its nutritive qualities, or its value as food for animals; but it is quite palatable, and domestic animals appear to like it much, and even the mice will dig them during the winter if nobody else will.

Waste places may be made to produce Artichokes with very little trouble, and if, by impartial trial, we find them of value as food for animals, they might thus soon be cultivated to considerable extent without diminishing the other productions of the farm.

The following is an extract from the article above alluded to, from the Tennessee Agriculturist, by Francis H. Gordon, of Clinton College.

"Its botanical name is *Helianthus Tuberosus*, and is supposed to have been originally discovered first on the borders of the Gulf of Mexico; whence it has been carried and cultivated in Europe for the table and for food for hogs. But it does not appear to be so productive in England, where it has been cultivated to advantage, as it is here. There 500 bushels to the acre is considered a large crop, but here I am satisfied that one acre of common soil, the second year after planting it, will yield at least 1000 bushels, and many acres will overgo that amount. So that its native country is best adapted to its production.

The race which I have was discovered about seven years ago, in Jackson county of this State, by Samuel Young, and from its correspondence with the description of the Jerusalem Artichoke, I unhesitatingly pronounced it the same. Before discovering the Jerusalem Artichoke, Mr. Young had cultivated for his hogs the common white variety (*Cinara Colymus*) and finding no profit in them had abandoned their culture.—During last spring, about one-eighth of an acre of the Jerusalem Artichoke was discovered on the farm of Harris Tuggle of Wilson county. Mr. T. had seen them in his field for several years, and regarded them as noxious weeds, had tried to exterminate them without success. But when he found by comparing them with mine, that they were Artichokes, he set a different estimate on them. From the farm of Mr. Young various persons have obtained and cultivated them as food for hogs, all of whom unite in their praise. And the accounts given of their productiveness and value in feeding hogs, are almost incredible. Yet the statements are made by men of unquestioned veracity, and the accounts of all who have tried them correspond, so that we can hardly disbelieve. In the spring of 1838, a neighbor of mine, who is incredulous to any report which has the appearance of extravagance, having heard of the products of the Artichoke, remarked that he thought it looked like "too many squirrels up one tree." But when he came last spring to dig some for seed out of my patch, he recalled what he had formerly said, and gave it as his opinion that it was equal to its representation. The great advantage of the artichoke, is, that it contradicts the assertion, that "there is no royal road to wealth," for it will yield considerable profits almost without labor. You have to plough the ground well in January, February or March, (the earlier the better,) and immediately check off 4 1-2 feet each way, and dropping one artichoke in each check, cover them with the plough. About the time they come up, plough them like Irish potatoes, and then again cross plough them one foot high, and you are done cultivating them forever. The first year they will make from 400 to 700 bushels per acre, and afterwards they will improve for two or three years, till they will yield about double the product of the first year. I now speak from experience. The hogs being allowed to root them all the winter, is an advantage to them, because they root up and soften the soil to a great depth, and the Artichokes will fill the soil as far down as it is pulverized. Thus they improve for several years, enough always being left by the hogs to set the ground completely. And lest some one should object, that they might freeze if planted in the winter, I remark that this Artichoke will freeze and thaw all the winter, and still be as good in the spring as if it had been in a cellar. The only way in which it may be injured, is by exposure to the air long enough to let it get dry, when it withers up to a hard stick. Hence in transporting them, we have to keep them moist, in order to preserve them."

Original.

#### ROOT CROPS AND HAY.

MR. HOLMES:—Your correspondent who dates at Rumford, and signs R., in No. 12 of the current volume, writes, to say the least, like others who have adopted theories, however erroneous or extravagant. He no doubt loves to handle the scythe and pitchfork, or in other words fears not hard labor. I notice some of his ideas that savor of extravagance, as I believe. He speaks of producing four tons of hay on an acre of soil, and of such coarse stuff being worth for stock ten dollars per ton. I have long been a farmer, and one half that quantity is as much as I ever desire on an acre, and much more than is usually obtained by good farmers. He says that mowing land improves the soil. Experience shews this to be error; on the



contrary, our mowing land runs out as we farmers say, and know. He then makes a comparison between hay and ruta бага turnips, and says that a ton of hay (I suppose he means his coarse fodder) has as much nutriment in it as 200 bushels of ruta бага. This is so extravagant that no farmer can agree with him who knows any thing relative to the use of both. I have inquired of 30 farmers what in their opinion ruta бага was worth for stock, pound for pound, compared with good English hay, and they all, except one, gave it as their opinion that it was equal, ton for ton, with such hay.

When the raising of this variety of turnips was first introduced into the county of Kennebec, as food for stock, by the Messrs. Vaughan, then of Hallowell, who came from England, I wrote to one of them, inquiring what was its probable yield per acre, what kind of soil it was most proper to sow it on, what stock it was most proper to feed it out to, what it was worth compared with hay, corn or Indian meal, &c. &c. He was good enough to answer my letter, and remarked that 40 bushels of it was equal for stock to a ton of English hay, and that a bushel of it cut up so that it could be measured, heaped as we do potatoes, was equal to a peck of Indian meal, that this he tried on his working oxen one spring, and that the cattle he gave turnips to did the best; he had four oxen in one team—he gave one pair a bushel of turnips, the other a peck of meal, &c. I doubt whether this generally would prove the fact, but as meal is rather heating, and turnips cooling, in this case it might have been true, if the weather was hot. I believe 50 bushels, 64 lbs. to the bushel, is worth as much for such stock as farmers have on their farms, as a ton of good hay—not such as is produced at the rate of four tons to the acre. I am aware that it must be fed out by one who knows a thing or two; to save hay, it must be fed out with straw, and our ordinary hay;—for I will allow that if I give my oxen as much good hay as they will eat, and then feed them with roots, that the roots have a tendency to cause the whole mass in the stomach to pass off sooner, and thus the ox is soon prepared to eat hay. In this case the saving is not so much in hay as in flesh and capacity to labor.

Man, and all animals like a change of food. What a dry business it is to feed our cattle 6 months on coarse dry hay which grew at the rate of 4 tons to the acre. We know how grateful it is to change from hay to roots by the avidity with which our stock eat them.

Mr R. I know allows that raising roots is a good thing for stock, but who will do it when he believes a ton of miserable coarse hay as valuable as 200 bushels of roots. The middle way is generally best,—50 bushels, no doubt, are as valuable with one ton of hay, as two tons of hay without roots. Six hundred bushels of ruta бага, the average crop to the acre, are equal to twelve tons of hay. One who believes this will not cling to the scythe and pitchfork, unless, like Mr R., he loves to labor exceedingly, which I confess I do not in the heat of summer. The scythe must go very hard through grass, 4 tons to the acre. I am pleased to read Mr R.'s notions and writings, because I think they may induce some to experiment, and thereby actually know the worth of hay and roots, but I presume Mr R. has not yet come to this kind of knowledge, which no doubt would be preferable to Yankee guessing that it took 200 bushels of Ruta бага to be as useful for stock as a ton of coarse hay.

Original.

#### SNUFF TAKING.

MR. HOLMES:—Considerable has been said, of late, very properly, in the Farmer against taking snuff and the use of tobacco in a pulverized state by cooks, dairy women, &c.

Now I would inquire if it is not equally as dirty a practice for a man—a butcher—who sells meat from his meat cart to use it, and thus sprinkle his meat over with it, not only from his breath, but frequently letting some fall upon it from his thumb and fingers?

I consider the use of this nasty weed, in any form, by any one, a filthy practice. For one, I do not want the meat which I purchase buried up in it, nor will I buy meat of one who thus uses it.

#### CARNIVOROUS.

A PLASTER FOR DISEASED OR INJURED FRUIT TREES. The following preparation is recommended by Mr. Forsyth for wounds or decayed places in fruit trees. Take 1 quart of fresh cow dung; 1 pint of lime from old buildings (lime that has been slacked a month before it is used, or chalk, will answer); 1 pint of sawdust; one 16th part of a quart of sand. The sawdust and sand should be finely sifted. The whole should be thoroughly mixed, and of the consistency of mortar.

Before using this plaster the diseased place in the tree should be cut smoothly with a knife or chisel, till you come to the sound wood. This is very necessary for the healing of the tree. The plaster should not be put on more than 1-8 of an inch in thickness, and near the bark a little thinner. Take five-sixths of dry saw dust, and one sixth part of burnt bones powdered, and

put it into a kind of sieve, so that it may be evenly scattered over the surface of the plaster. Let this remain a half an hour until it draws the moisture from the plaster. Then repeat the application of the same powder, and rub it on with your hand softly—and repeat this until the plaster becomes dry and smooth. If the plaster should fall off in any place, it should be put on again with the hands.

Trees may be cut off, and if the roots are sound, may be made to sprout again, and thrifty trees may be thus obtained. The tree should be cut off smooth, and the plaster applied as above directed, and plaster paris mixed with the preparation of sand and bone dust and sprinkled on for the purpose of drying it.

This plaster may be preserved for future use by putting it into a vessel, and pouring the urine of neat cattle over it, and allowing no air to get to it.

[From the American Farmer's Companion.]  
MECHANICS.

"Out of nothing—nothing comes."

The laws of nature, unlike human laws, can neither be changed nor evaded; and for a want of a proper knowledge of simple and unchangeable laws, many men waste time and money in trying to produce great effects by insufficient means.

The mechanical powers, as they are called, do not, and never can, create power—they only modify its application.

The power most easily measured is that of gravity or weight; and it is the cheapest of all powers, or first movers, when, as in the case of a water-fall, nature constantly winds up the weight for us for nothing.

Suppose then we have one thousand pounds of water falling ten feet in a minute. No human contrivance can make that water raise more than its own weight to the height of ten feet in the same time. It cannot raise quite as much, for the friction of the machinery must waste part of the power; but as it may be a small part let us omit the friction from these calculations.

The effect of the mechanical powers is to enable us, while the original power remains the same, and the rate of its motion the same, to exert a greater power with a slower motion, or a lesser power with a quicker motion. But, in all such cases, the power produced multiplied by the speed with which it moves will be found to give the same product.

Thus one thousand pounds falling ten feet in a minute may be made to raise ten thousand pounds one foot in a minute, or one hundred pounds one hundred feet in a minute, the same power being required in each case; but no man can make it do more, for if he did, he would create something out of nothing, which is contrary to a law of nature.

For this reason all attempts to make a mechanical perpetual motion have failed, and forever must fail; as such a machine would be equivalent to making a weight raise another equal to itself to the same height in the same time, and enough more to overcome the unavoidable friction of the machine, which friction, however small, is sooner or later, to stop the motion, unless an additional power is applied sufficient to overcome the friction.

Therefore every man who is trying to make a perpetual motion, or any other machine which he expects to do more than the power applied to work it, is wasting his time and money in that which will be certain to end in disappointment.

#### GEOMETRICAL ALBUMS.

For several years past, some six or eight exercises, calculated to employ, and of course to develop, the physical, intellectual, and moral powers of children, have been extending among Schools and Social Lyceums, in almost every section of our country. The forming of "*Foliums*," or small books of plants, with their names and brief descriptions, is one of those exercises, and well calculated to entertain and instruct both children and their parents. Connected with foliums are "*Leaf impressions*," made by using leaves as types to imprint themselves. Though perfectly simple and easily made, the impression is more exact, than can probably be produced by any other process.

"*Drawing*" is another of these exercises, already performed in some sections of the country by every pupil in every school. As plants, flowers and fruit, among other objects of nature, with those of art, are drawn, this exercise is intimately connected with the other two mentioned. Collecting, arranging, and describing "*Cabinets of Nature and Art*," form another delightful and profitable exercise, now extensively introduced into schools, lyceums and families, in almost every section of the country.

These exercises are greatly aided by "*Scientific Excursions*," or walks for examining and collecting specimens of nature. With many schools, and very

numerous "Social Lyceums," a weekly or semi-weekly excursion of this kind, is a regular exercise, at least during the summer.

The most fundamental, and the most interesting of all the exercises referred to, *Scientific Exchanges* excepted, is the forming of "*Geometrical Albums*." These are representations and demonstrations of the principles of Geometry. In preparing these illustrations, the pen, pencil, brush, knife, and scissors, are in great requisition, and frequently, with lads and young gentlemen, the saw, plane, lathe, and some instruments are brought into use.

By this practical and experimental course in this fundamental science, every thing contained in books on the subject becomes much more familiar than they can by a course of abstractions merely. The pupil learns very many things which the books do not teach. They learn the applications of principles to various business operations. They very successfully cultivate taste. They acquire, to a very useful extent, manual skill, which can be applied to any business employment, and to many departments of science. Last, but not least, as it gives employment to nearly all the powers, physical, intellectual, and moral, it affords a high degree of pleasure to all engaged in it.

This exercise commends itself so entirely to the common sense of every one, as frequently to enlist the efforts of parents with those of their children.—And nearly every one, with extensive and varied attainments in science, gives it his hearty approbation, and very frequently the direct application of his mind and hands. I ought to except, perhaps, a few very learned ladies and gentlemen, some fifteen or sixteen years of age, whose attainments I have found to be entirely out of the reach of exercises, which would be considered entirely appropriate by such of their inferiors as Sir Isaac Newton, La Place, Rowditch, and many other humble learners of science.

The most interesting and the most important of all the exercises referred to, is "*Scientific Exchanges*," already extended far and wide through both Continents. This gives elevation, dignity, and, of course, energy to all the rest. It has for its object nothing less than diffusing scientific and Christian knowledge over the globe; and of course enlightening and redeeming the human family from ignorance and vice.

I have in my possession letters from a great number of the first men in Europe, and some in Asia, recommending, in the strongest terms, a general system of *Scientific Exchanges*, on a plan, which will not only permit, but invite the co-operation of the friends of science and religion over the whole globe. Among them is a letter from the Archbishop of Paris, which does equal credit to his head and his heart, by the liberal and enlarged views he warmly presents on the subject.

I will only add that measures are in progress, in this city, in connection with those in other places, which will give every school, lyceum, family, and individual in the country, an opportunity to aid in the cause of *diffusing knowledge*, as the surest and most successful mode of acquiring it.

I am always yours,

JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

*No time to read Papers.* All men find time for every thing that is really a gratification to them; and hence the complaint of no time is, in fact, no taste for newspapers. Every man has time to read a paper during a rainy day, or a long evening, or sometimes when waiting for his meals. If he is not a slave, he certainly can find time to improve his mind. The most industrious people always find time to read, and it is the idle and lazy only who have no time.

**ASPARAGUS.**—A delicious, wholesome, perennial esculent plant, of the most hardy species. The young plants are cut in the spring beneath the surface and prepared by boiling. Sow the seeds in spring in a rich soil an inch deep in rows 18 inches asunder: keep the ground well cultivated and in two or three years they will be fit to transplant. In its native state it is a low dwarfish plant, but to raise it in perfection and of large size, the ground must be made exceedingly rich, to the depth of fifteen inches. In such a prepared soil, the plants may be set fourteen inches asunder. In autumn spread over the surface a coat of manure which must be dug in with a fork very early in the spring.

**OKRA.**—Sown in the beginning of May—used as an ingredient in soups, and a beautiful ornamental plant. It is cultivated extensively in the West Indies. Its ripe seeds burned and used like coffee, can scarcely be distinguished therefrom. It should be planted an inch deep, and hoed two or three times like peas.

*Breck's Catalogue.*





## PROCEEDINGS OF KEN. CO. AG. SOCIETY.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Ken. Co. Ag. Society:*—In preparing for you an annual agricultural treat, we are not able to spread before you the dainties and luxuries of foreign lands, nor do we promise you the choicest productions of our own soil, decorated with rich ornaments. From such caterers you will expect but farmer's fare—the substantial of life, and perhaps will pardon, if some portion be hashed over. If, upon the whole, it shall be pronounced wholesome and nourishing we ask no higher praise.

Treating upon a subject which has employed so many able pens and eloquent tongues, we have not the vanity to aspire after high distinction. Entering upon a field which so many have gained "well earned fame," and been crowned with never fading laurels, we shall be content, if by the way-side, we shall be permitted to gather one humble flower, with which to deck our brow.

We have to regret our incompetency to the undertaking of presenting the claims of agriculture to your notice, in a manner in any degree corresponding with the merits of the subject. Agriculture, the nursing mother of all the arts and sciences which give to civilized man a superiority to savages—the basis of a nation's independence—a creator, second only in power to the Creator of Heaven and earth, should enlist in her services, the hands, the pens, the tongues and the hearts of men of the first talents in an enlightened community. Fortunately for the cause, *fortunately for the country*, it has enlisted in the service, talents of the highest order. It is to improvement in agriculture we are to look, not only for improvement in all other branches of industry, but for improvement in the intellectual and moral condition of our country, and very nearly in exact proportions. What subject then commends itself so warmly to the embraces of the christian and the patriot? What cause lays a higher claim to the notice of the statesman? What individual, be he ever so humble, is not called upon to rise in his might, and put forth his energies in aid of this high and holy cause? It is with these views that we appear before you to-day, to throw our influence, though small it may be, in favor of agriculture. We would urge upon you the necessity of a continuance of vigorous and energetic exertion in a cause already prospering in your hands.—We would counsel you not to be "weary in well doing." From a review of what has been done, and in view of the prospect before you, we would encourage you in your course. If necessary we would stimulate you to take higher ground, to aim at greater results. Much has already been accomplished by this society, we trust, in its associate capacity, in improving the agricultural condition of the country, much remains to be done. The arable products of our fields have been increased by the adoption of a somewhat improved course of culture; they are yet to be doubled, may be trebled, by perseverance and untiring exertion. A great work is before you. When you have discovered and put in practice the best method of improving the agriculture of the country, and with it the moral and intellectual condition of the population; for the culture of the soil, and the culture of the mind, reciprocally act upon, and benefit each other, the improvement of the soil affording the best facilities for the improvement of the mind, and the strongest inducements for the formation of moral habits—when you have increased your cattle, and your sheep cover all the hills—when your abundant water power is employed in turning useful machinery—when your exports exceed your imports—when your legislators have learned the true interests of the country, and aim at advancing them, instead of party measures—in fine, when such a revolution is effected that we shall have become an intelligent, moral, industrious, independent and happy people,—then may you rest from your labors, and receive the plaudit, "well done good and faithful servants."

It remains for us to point out some of the means by which this great change is to be effected. What, it may be asked, can the few names assembled here, the members of the Ken. Co. Ag. Society, do towards accomplishing so great a work. We answer, that if our influence is to be felt no farther than our voices

are heard, and we are to labor alone, our prospects are dreary. But this is not the fact; already the strong are coming to our assistance. Although we may be doomed to struggle for a time against fearful odds, our cause is just, and will raise us up friends.—Men of talent and discernment are beginning to see the true interests of the country. They now regard agriculture and manufactures, the productive branches of industry, as the basis of the country's independence. They are already raising their voices and stretching forth their hands in their behalf. The cause must ultimately triumph. The present embarrassments in the business concerns of the country, and the heavy debt accumulating abroad must direct the public mind to our own resources. Every man, who does not from interested motives shut his eyes, and stop his ears against the evidence on every side of him, must be convinced of the policy of encouraging and protecting the productive branches of industry.

Were any thing more than the success which has hitherto attended your efforts, needed to excite you forward, we would cite to the example of the Highland Ag. Society of Scotland. About the close of the 18th century, a time when it is said "Scotland was as poor as a church mouse, a few gentlemen full of zeal for their country and it may be a little love of society, formed themselves into a sort of hole and corner club, in a coffee house, near the market cross of Edinburg. From this meeting of a few worthies, who assembled to talk over the plans of improving the condition of their country, arose the now widely spread and powerful Highland Society. At this time the agriculture of the country was in a miserable state. Hardly any wheat was attempted to be grown. Oats full of thistles was the standard crop, and this was repeated on most of the arable land while it would produce twice the seed sown upon it. The whole manure of the farm was put upon a small bit of ground near the buildings to raise a coarse sort of barley, wherewith to make barnocks, or small beer. A great part of the Summer was employed in pulling thistles out of the oats and carrying them to the horses. But few potatoes were raised, and the turnip crop was scarcely known. The society effected but little by their experiments till in about 1815 it is said "they sent the heaven of the turnip culture into all the glens and straths of the north, by offers of small prizes." The scene was changed; beautiful fields of wheat were to be seen where formerly grew the thistles and oats. The produce of their arable lands was trebled in a short time. The society continued to advance as to members and cash, being backed by the government, so that in 1838 they offered in prizes \$17,000." Laborers in such a cause could not be left to toil alone. Their services were too important to pass unnoticed. They first redeemed the country; then enriched it. The great inquiry is what shall we do? How shall we manage our farms in order to produce the greatest profit, while we keep up the condition of the land, and place it in a course of gradual improvement? Success in farming must depend in a considerable degree upon the animals produced and supported upon the farm, and at the head of these, for profit, we must place sheep. No country presents greater advantages for profitable sheep husbandry than Maine. Our hilly and mountainous regions are completely adapted to Summer keeping, and our valleys and plains are excelled by those of no other region in their capacity to produce roots, straw and hay for Winter feed. No fears need be entertained about a market for wool. Children are born naked yet; there must from the nature of things, always be a demand for this article in a cold country, and at a price too, that will give a profit to the grower, if he adopt a judicious course of keeping. In the stock department we place sheep at the head; and in the field culture first in the catalogue are the root crops. An argument was brought forward, in our semi-annual report in favor of a more extensive turnip culture, derived from the fact, that they return to the soil a greater quantity of food for vegetables, in proportion to that exhausted, than any other crop. This is an important consideration, in selecting crops, where the improvement of the farm is aimed at, as it is in all good farming.

Says Mr. Webster, who has lately returned from England, where we may suppose he was an acute observer of the agricultural operations, as well as other things; "The great improvements in English agriculture are all traced to the introduction, from 60 to 80 years ago of the cultivation of turnips. Before that time, when lands become exhausted by the repetition of grain crops, they were left, as it was termed fallow, that is, were not cultivated at all, but abandoned to recruit themselves as they might. This occurred as often as once in four years, so that one fourth the arable land was always out of cultivation, and yielded

nothing. Turnips are now substituted for these naked fallows; and now land in turnips is considered as fallows. "What" he inquires "is the philosophy of this? The raising of crops does not enrich, but exhausts land. The exhaustion of the land, as experience and observation have fully demonstrated, takes place mainly when the seeds of plants are allowed to perfect themselves. The turnip is a biennial plant. There is another circumstance in respect to the turnip plant which deserves consideration. Plants, it is well understood, derive a large portion of their nutriment from the air. The leaves of plants are their lungs. The leaves of turnips expose a wide surface to the atmosphere, and derive therefore much of their subsistence and nutriment. The broad leaves of turnips likewise shade the ground, preserve its moisture, and prevent, in some measure, its exhaustion by the sun and air.

"The turnips have a further ultimate use. Meat and clothing come from animals. The more animals are sustained upon a farm, the more meat, and the more clothing. These things bear, of course, a proportion to the number of bullocks, sheep, swine and poultry which are maintained. The great inquiry is, what kind of crops will least exhaust the land in their cultivation, and furnish support for the greatest number of animals? Fields of turnips of three and even five hundred acres are common in England. Since the introduction of the turnip culture, sheep and bullocks have trebled in number. Turnips for reasons given, are not great exhausters of soil, and they furnish abundant food for animals. Where one bushel of oats are produced, ten bushels of turnips may be grown at the same cost. The great difference is seen in the farmer's barn-yard. Here is the test of their comparative value. This is the secret of the great advantage of their cultivation. The turnip crop returns a great amount of nutritive matter to the soil." By culture of it, the other crops in England have been doubled, to the acre, and in Scotland, trebled within a few years. "In England the sheep husbandry has been extended with it, till this year, they will cut from sixty to seventy millions of fleeces. The farmer, from his turnip crop and a regular rotation, finds green feed for his cattle, and wheat for market. The regular rotation in some parts, is barley, clover, turnips, wheat." The question for us is, can we adopt this course of culture? We answer, there is no incapacity in our soil, nor any circumstance unfavorable to it. No country is better supplied with the materials for enriching the soil, and rendering it productive than Maine. There are in this vicinity but few farms that have not upon them, or in the immediate neighborhood all the requisites for making them as productive as any of the farms in England or Scotland. We have inexhaustible funds of decomposed vegetable matter lying waste in our bogs and meadows, and lime quarries innumerable, yet undisturbed, which, if not of the first quality, are pure enough for agricultural purposes, and which need only feel the power of yankee enterprise in tearing them open and exposing them to fire, or to the operation of machinery, to reduce them to terms, and convert them into valuable manure. In many places we have calcareous manures ready manufactured to our hands, in the form of decomposed lime rock. No means of enriching the soil is enjoyed by any country, that is not enjoyed to an equal extent by us. Nothing in the nature of the case prevents every acre of tillage land in Maine from yielding as much actual profit to the tiller, in the amount of crops as any acre of land, in any other country.

Without further remarks, we consider the question settled beyond a controversy that, our soil is susceptible of as high a state of cultivation as any region under heaven, and that we have all the means of rendering it so. What inducements have we to attempt it? Can the farmers of Kennebec see their account in expending capital to increase the productiveness of their farms? These are important questions, which we shall attempt to answer by a course of analogical reasoning. For this purpose we have made an estimate of the profits in producing the several crops usually cultivated on our farms, the result of which is, that the average profits of the several crops, is something over one hundred per cent, on the cost of production, not allowing any thing for rent of land, taxes, enclosures, wear of tools, decay of buildings &c.—Now suppose that these will just eat up the one hundred per cent profit on the crop, the farmer just makes the ends meet. So far as the raising of crops is concerned, he is none the richer for it, unless his profit is more than a hundred per cent, except that by working his land, its value may be enhanced. From this calculation it seems that farming is neither a losing nor a gaining business or if there is any gain, it must be made by pasturage, by rearing stock. We think that our estimate of one hundred per cent, for the value of crops, above the cost, cannot be thought



too high, when it is considered that so many men are willing to take farms at the halves as it is termed, that is to take half the produce, in payment for doing the labor. We have here several estimates of the cost of producing crops, and their value. The average profit of a four years rotation of crops is considerably above a hundred per cent, upon good farms.—But suppose it is just that, as farming is generally carried on in this county, what would be the result of employing more capital upon the farms. Let a man who now expends two hundred dollars in labor upon his farm, spend four hundred, and how will the account foot? Employing two hundred dollars, he receives four hundred in crops. This leaves him just "square with the world;" for two hundred dollars are required to pay interest on the capital, and two hundred dollars for the labor. But if he employ four hundred dollars, he receives in crops eight hundred, four hundred of which he takes to pay for the labor two hundred dollars pays the interest on his capital and he has two hundred dollars profits. The propriety of this kind of calculation will be seen, when it is considered that there is no additional expense in enclosures and buildings and but little in wear of tools and implements, and no additional interest on capital, not enough additional charges in the whole, on this side, to balance the excess of one hundred per cent profits on the crops. You see Mr. President, Gentlemen, that we are making this farming business more profitable than it is generally thought to be, and before the acceptance of this report we would recommend that committee be chosen to examine our estimates of the profits of crops, and see if we have erred; we are of opinion that if we have committed an error it is on the safe side.\* The objection will at once be raised to extending farming operations, that capital is wanted. This to be sure is a serious objection. But let us see how much weight there is in it. There are many farmers in this county who have capital which they would invest in this business were they sure it would pay them interest; and the only reason why they do not is that they take a wrong view of the subject. They reason in this manner, "I labor all the year myself, with perhaps two boys, and hire one man. We get good crops, and at the end of the year have not enough to sell to pay the hired man. I don't find farming so profitable." They do not take into account that eight, ten or twelve hundred dollars of their income are annually expended in supporting a family, that they are paying for carriages, harnesses, board and tuition of their children, broadcloths and silks, parlor furniture, &c. &c. several hundreds more. But because they are not laying up money, they say at once "farming is an unprofitable business; they can live by it, and that is all." Let us see what would be the result of one of these close calculator's employing some of his spare capital on his farm; or if he has not the spare capital, suppose he hire it, by pledging his farm for the payment. Capital can always be obtained in this manner. There are widows and orphan children who have capital that they are not able to employ themselves, and ask no better security for it, than real estate at one half or two thirds its value. In pursuing our calculation we go on the plan of having the additional capital worked separate from other capital, and its increase applied to further operations in farming, instead of being expended in show, and luxurious living. We have made it appear, pretty fairly, that additional capital may be worked in farming at one hundred per cent profit; but for convenience of reckoning, and that no one may accuse us of "castle building" we will suppose it only fifty six per cent.—Suppose the capital to be hired, this would allow six per cent to be appropriated annually to pay the interest, and leave fifty per cent, to add to the means of carrying on operations. We have carried out the calculation on the supposition of starting with five hundred dollars, which kept active at this rate per cent profit, for ten years, would amount to \$28,000 nearly. This a larger amount than can be employed on any farm in this country. The principle cannot be carried out to its full extent, in practice. But every farmer who has his farm paid for, and has spare capital, or can hire it at six per cent may make himself independent in a few years. Let him begin with such a sum as he can employ to advantage, and never draw upon it for other purposes, than to pay his interest, till it has increased to such an amount that he can pay the principal, and have enough remaining to carry on his operations independently.

\* In compliance with this recommendation a committee, consisting of John Haines of Readfield, Henry G. Cole of Hallowell and Joseph A. Metcalf of Winthrop, who after examining the estimates referred to, reported that if the calculations of the trustees were intended to apply to arable land, their estimates of profits, were not, in their opinion, too high.

The grand difficulty is carrying the paper calculations of profits, into effect is, that men in all business almost invariably proportion their outsets to their income, and so exactly, that it makes but little difference, whether their income be 500 dollars, or a thousand. If a thousand dollars, they ride in better style, live in better style, give more parties, furnish their houses in richer style, and go on a larger scale in every thing where outsets are to be made. We see this carried out to a degree in almost every department of life.—The day laborer, who receives his two dollars per diem, can afford to ride as often as once or twice a week, at an expense of three or four dollars, and the loss of one or two day's time; while the man who receives but one dollar will take such recreation but once in two or three months, and at the end of the year can count as much cash as his friend who has received double wages.

We have given these views thus at length, and have only to regret that we have not been able to do it in a more masterly manner.

In our exertions to carry out these views remembering that our dependence is not merely on physical force, but that mental power, that knowledge and science are required, let us not be sparing of our pains in educating our children; let us not be grudging of the expense of that knowledge that will make our "daughters pure as they are fair" and our "sons noble as they are strong," and shall render both worthy the liberty they enjoy and able to defend it. In borrowed language; "The great principles of agriculture are every where the same. Animal and vegetable matters constitute every where the food of plants, and heat, moisture and atmospheric air, universally the active agents of vegetable nutrition. With a knowledge of the truth of these great principles, it is the province of man to apply them, under the various contingences of climate, soil, aspect and seasons.—And this is a labor in which the mind, enlightened by science, and fortified in its conclusions by experience, can do far more than hands. The cultivated mind like the steam power, is a labor saving principle, capable of performing, or of saving, an immense amount of labor.

NATHAN FOSTER, }  
ELIJAH WOOD, } Trustees.  
OAKES HOWARD, }

February, 1840.

Some extemporaneous remarks were made by the chairman of the board, which he was requested to write out and annex to the report, to wit:

We deem proper, at this time, to make the society acquainted with the course we have been under the necessity of pursuing in regard to drawing orders for premiums. There have been several cases in which we thought it our duty to refuse to draw orders notwithstanding the adjudging committees reported in favor of objects. The reasons for our course are, that the competitors neglected to comply with the requisitions, as published annually by the Trustees, and as specified in the law by which we receive our bounty from the State. The law to which we allude is in the following language.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That any person to whom a premium shall be awarded for raising the greatest crop for any given quantity of land, (of at least one acre, if the crop be of corn or grain,) shall, before receiving said premium, deliver to the society a statement in writing, specifying the kind and quantity of dressing put upon said land, the course pursued in cultivating the same, and the kind of soil so cultivated, with such other circumstances as may be deemed useful. And if the premium be awarded him for introducing or improving the breed of any cattle, horses or other animals, he shall, before receiving the same, make a similar statement of the breed or stock, and of the advantages thereof for labor, or the dairy, or fattening, or any other purpose, together with the mode and expense of rearing or treating the same, as compared with the usual methods, and such other remarks as may be thought of public utility.

We do not speak of this to justify our course, it needs no justification. It will be seen that a different course would jeopardize the interests of the society; and deprive the public of the information, which it was the design of the law, and which it is the aim of the society to disseminate in the community. We bring up the subject, that competitors and adjudging committees may understand what is required of them and conform to the regulations. We speak of adjudging committees not merely as regards their duty in seeing that competitors perform their part in furnishing the necessary statements, but that they themselves are not remiss in duty in handing over the statements to the secretary of the society, to be by him forwarded to the secretary of State. In one instance, the requisite statements were furnished by the competitors, and placed in the hands of the

committee (on Cows) but were not, by them, returned to the secretary. The orders of course were not drawn. N. FOSTER.

## THE VISITOR.

CONDUCTED BY CYRIL PEARL.

### GRAFTING FRUIT TREES.

As the season approaches for the grafting of trees we propose to offer a few hints upon the different methods practiced. **THE SPLIT GRAFT.** The old common method has been to cut off the tree or limb square across, split the stock and open it by a wedge then shape the scion and fitting a shoulder on each side of the stock, so as to have a double chance of securing a tree. This practice is liable to several objections.

1. There will be many failures and the stock is not usually fit to graft a second time.

2. Grafting in this way is usually delayed till the stock is one inch or an inch and a half in diameter. It is therefore necessarily delayed till the tree is several years old.

3. It is difficult for the wound to heal with perfect soundness so as to secure a healthy and strong branch. The split in the stock, is liable to let the atmosphere and water into the heart of the tree and occasion disease and premature decay.

### THE SADDLE GRAFT.

In this method the limb or tree is severed with a scarf or slanting cut. A limb or tree for this method need not be more than two fifths or one half inch in diameter and may be cut with a scarf that shall leave the smooth surface thus cut about three fourths or seven eighths of an inch or even an inch from the upper to the lower extremity of it. The bark is then split downwards about one inch on opposite sides of the stock; that is from its upper and lower extremities and peeled up so as to allow the insertion of the scion. The scion is split up two inches from its lower extremity and one side of it cut off so as to leave it about an inch both parts of it are then cut away on the inside so as to slide under the bark of the stock easily, the long part of it so as to be flexible and as it extends down across the scarf it covers up the pith or heart of the stock, and passes in under the bark below and the bark on both sides then closes over the scion and is confined by a woollen string not drawn very close. The graft then stands firmly and has an opportunity to receive the sap on both sides of the stock or in both branches of it. This may be protected by a little wad of clay mingled with long dry grass gathered by the walls or in some place where it can be gathered of sufficient length to hold the clay together till the wound is healed. This process leaves a less wound in the tree—the graft stands more securely and there are two chances for it to grow. If it fails it can be cut off an inch below and grafted again the next year.

**INNOCULATION.**—This is after all better than either mode of grafting, as it can be done when the tree is still smaller than for the saddle graft. The proper time is when the tree is about the size of a pipe stem, or one third of an inch in diameter. The common method is to cut through the bark across the tree horizontally and then split downwards from this cut about one inch starting up the bark on either hand and then inserting the bud which had been cut in the right form. A better way is to cut the bark with the edge of the knife downwards and start it off with such a downward cut about one third of an inch the piece of bark will be oval or circular at the top and about a quarter of an inch wide. Split this piece in the centre downwards and extend the split thus made down three quarters of an inch below where it was started from the wood, start it up on each side and insert the bud which is cut from its limb with the knife in the same position as in cutting the bark as above. That is the bud is shaved off, the knife being set in about one tenth of an inch above it, a very little wood being taken directly under the bud, and the bark shaved off downwards for one half or three fourths of an inch below the bud. A little wood will be shaved off thus with the bark but this must be removed up nearly to the bud, and the piece thus fitted will just cover the spot left naked on the tree and the bark that had been started up closes over it, one of the parts passing each side of the bud and thus the wood is all covered by the bud and the bark closes over its edges leaving the bud protected by it and the wound in the best possible shape for healing speedily. Wind a soft woollen yarn round the tree to cover up the seam and keep the parts of the bark close to the bud. This should be wound up as high as the bud and passed once or twice around above the bud to keep the points of the old bark in place. Such experiments cost but little labor; any boy of 12 or 14 years can do it if instructed. If the bud does not grow the tree is not injured, and can be again inoculated or grafted. If the bud grows the top of the tree should be cut off an inch or one half an inch above the bud so that the bud may grow the more rapidly. The time for grafting or inoculating is immediately after the sap begins to run sufficiently to



start the buds. The scions whether for grafting or furnishing buds should be cut before the buds have opened or the sap begins to run rapidly and may be preserved by setting the cut ends in the ground with the upper ends above the surface.

## SUMMARY.

**NEW AGRICULTURAL SEED STORE IN AUGUSTA.**—We would refer those who wish to purchase seeds, to the Advertisement of Mr. Pullen in another part of our paper. Mr. Pullen is a young man of industrious habits, just starting in business, and we trust the good people of the capital of the State, will give him a generous share of patronage.

**POTATOES.**—To start early in the spring. Dig trenches so as to be beyond the reach of the frost; at the bottom put some fermenting manure; then a thin layer of soil; then the potatoes; then a layer of straw—and cover the whole with the soil. Observation will show when they are fit to plant.—London Hort. Register.

## FROM CHINA.

The Governor General of India has, in the name of the British Government, declared War against China. The most extensive preparations are making. The Governor General of India has advertised for 40,000 tons of shipping, for the transportation of the troops to China, 14,000 of which were to be supplied by Calcutta, and the rest by Madras and Bombay. The expedition was to rendezvous at Amoy and sail from Canton. Seven regiments quartered in this last presidency had been ordered to prepare for embarkation, and the whole expedition to consist of 16,000.

The intelligence from China is highly important.—The news came via Marseilles, and is contained in despatches from Bombay, Jan. 31.

The dates from China are to Dec. 15th.

**Something Singular.** We are informed by Mr. Samuel Goodwin of Fairfield, in this county, that he has a heifer, which, when she was 13 months and 18 days old, had a calf that weighed 48 pounds. We stamp the whole Union, disputed territory and all, to beat this.

*Skowhegan Sentinel.*

The N. Y. American states that Brigadier General Eustis has been ordered to the command of the United States troops at Houlton, and that the force there will amount to 500 men.

We have since learned by the Boston papers, that Gen. Eustis, with two or three other officers, has arrived in that city, on their way to Houlton.

Eustis is the Colonel of the regiment ordered to that post, being only a *brevet* Brigadier General.

The story is revived that Col. Crockett, who was reported to have been killed at the Alamo, is still alive and a captive at work in one of the Mexican mines.

**Texian Independence.** The postscript of a letter received in New York, dated Galveston, Texas, the 22d ult. says that "the news has just arrived, that Mexico has acknowledged our Independence." This does not seem very probable.

**Texas.** President Lamar has issued his proclamation, dated February 11, abolishing the duties on French wines imported direct from France in either French or Texian vessels.

At the present term of the Court of Common Pleas, John May, of Winthrop; Henry K. Baker, of Hallowell; and Wm. H. Clark, of Hallowell, were admitted to practice as Attorneys at law in this Court.

The editor of the Columbus (Georgia) Inquirer laughs at a cotemporary for talking about his two hats. He says first that no editor has two hats, and second, but precious few of them have head enough to fill one decently.

**A queer law.**—About the year 1681, the legislature of Pennsylvania passed a resolution that "no member thereof should come to the House barefoot or eat his bread and cheese on the steps."

There has been a fight in the Pennsylvania House of Assembly between Mr. McElwee and Mr. Hegins.—Spitting in the face and boxing ensued to the disgrace of the State and of both parties. A committee has been appointed to examine into the facts and report to the House.

**Mr. McElwee Expelled.** Thomas B. McElwee, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, has been expelled from that body by a vote of 58 to 26, for gross indignity offered to that body in an insult to Mr. Hegins, a member from Northumberland.—*Boston Post.*

**Fire.** The dwelling house of A. T. C. Dodge, Esq. at Black's corner in Prospect, was destroyed by fire together with considerable furniture, &c. on the morning of the 27th ult.—whole loss about \$600—no insurance.—*Bellevue Journal.*

**Importance of Fireside Education.** The fireside is a Seminary of infinite importance. It is important be-

cause it is universal, and because the education it bestows, being woven in with the wool of childhood, gives form and color to the whole texture of life. There are few who can receive the honors of a college, but all are graduates of the hearth.

**Terrible.**—Forty weddings were recently consummated in one week, in one of the counties of north Mississippi. An editor there says, heavy pecuniary embarrassments it is believed, drove them to the this last act of desperation.

In the criminal Court at Quebec, James Nisbet and Gerard Welsh, two Americans from the state of Maine, were condemned to pay a fine of £40 (and imprisonment until paid) 6 months imprisonment, and to stand on the pillory—for enticing soldiers to desert.

The Montreal Herald says, "We understand that instructions have been received from her Majesty's Government, that 1100 Volunteers be embodied for two years, from the 1st of May next, for this province."

The Abolition convention in Albany, have nominated James G. Birney of New York, for President of the United States, and Thomas Earl of Pennsylvania for Vice President.

The printing business in the United States is estimated to give employment to two hundred thousand persons, and thirty millions of capital.

**Early Fruit.**—The Charleston Courier of the 31st of March, acknowledges the receipt of some fine strawberries raised in an open garden in that city.

**Military Movement.**—Brigadier General Eustis has been ordered to the command of the United States troops at Houlton, in Maine. The force there will not exceed five hundred regulars; but their presence, and that of so discreet and intelligent an officer as Gen. Eustis, will, it may be anticipated, have the effect of keeping things quiet.

The New Bedford Register informs us that a lady committed suicide in Fall River last week, by taking oil of turpentine. She had been married but a few months, and was driven by the abuse of a brutal husband to the fatal act.

Could we but look in to many domestic circles, with all their outward show of finery, what scenes of misery would present themselves to our view, all originating in the senseless rage for gentility; or the silly ambition of figuring in a higher station than that to which they belong.

The Brig Exambia of New York, was lost on a late passage from Charleston to that city, and of the officers and crew consisting of 14 persons, only the chief mate was saved.

An Elephant, at the Zoological exhibition in N. Y. lately killed a rhinoceros, with a single stroke of his trunk.

It has been decided by Judge Stroud in Philadelphia, in the case of a stable keeper, who prosecuted some young men for injury done to horses by excessive driving on the Sabbath, that a contract for labor done on the Sabbath is not legal,—and on that ground, the stable keeper was nonsuited.

A violent tornado lately passed over Mobile, and several individuals were killed by falling buildings and many more injured.

A detachment of the U. S. Artillery on their way to Houlton, Me., arrived in this city this morning, by the Lowell Rail Road, and have established their quarters in Cambridge street.—*Boston paper of Saturday.*

**The Whaling Business.**—During the past season the business in this line has been unusually good. The Nantucket Inquirer says, that one of the vessels arrived at that port has cleared more than a dollar an hour, besides interest on cost, &c., from the time she sailed, until the hour of her arrival home.—*Boston Mercantile Journal.*

**The Times.**—We have all the appearance of business about us. Our wharves are lined with vessels. There were about twenty arrivals yesterday, and the prospect is that they will not want for freight, as we count in front of our office 44 wagon loads of shingles which have been brought in from the country this morning, and the number is increasing by fresh arrivals.—*Bangor Whig.*

**True Independence.**—The man who has seven acres of fertile land, may always retire within the circle of his own productions; he may laugh at the monopolist; and receive his bread from the God of Heaven. No matter how much the seller asks for his necessities; no man is obliged to buy them. Let him store his fine flour, if he please, till it is devoured by the rats. I thank heaven that I have two hands and an humble stomach; I can bear coarse food, and woolen; I can retire from flour to Indian meal, and from Indian meal to potatoes, or some humbler root.—*Withington.*

**Bodily Exercise.**—Not only must the whole body, as a whole, be duly exercised, but so must its various organs. Some are made for more action: some for less. There must also be both recreation and labor. Finally, there must not only be a due proportion of all these, in order to secure and preserve health, but there must also be a suitable proportion of rest and sleep.—*Library of Health.*

**Arms and Munitions of War.**—A letter from Washington, published in the Richmond Enquirer of Friday, intimates the probability that the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate will recommend nothing respecting the Maine Boundary dispute, until some communications are made directly from the British Government. In reference to the present resources of the United States, in view of a hostile termination of the present controversy, it is stated that besides 400,000 arms that have been distributed by the General Government to the respective States, there are now in the arsenals 60,000 muskets ready for use, and of heavy cannon 3,000 pieces. Supplies of balls and all kinds of projectiles are abundant. There is a sufficient store of materials to manufacture 5000 pistols and swords per month. The amount of gunpowder on hand is stated at 12,000 barrels, with materials for 4000 barrels more.

We understand from good authority, that orders have been received at the Navy Yard here, to get all the vessels in port ready for active service. These vessels are the Independence, (razee) just returned from Brazil; the Fairfield, the Natchez, and the Boston, large sloops of war, and the Relief, lately returned from the South Sea Exploring Expedition.

The greatest despatch is ordered to be given to completing the new steamship of war now building here.—*N. Y. American.*

**Sparks' Life of Franklin.**—Mr. Sparks has just completed another great American work, in the Life and Writings of Franklin. Eight volumes have been sometime before the public. The last volume and the first, making 10 vols have just been printed. Great labor has been bestowed upon the work.

Fifty-five thousand barrels of flour reached the Baltimore Market, by way of the Washington rail road, during the month of March.

So forward is the season that green peas were in the Charleston market on the 17th of March.

A Hindoo, named Gobin Chunder Gosain, an inhabitant of Ballee, died lately leaving no less than 100 widows.—*Asiatic Journal.*

**Shipwreck.** The Eastport Sentinel says that the British brig Repeal, O'Hara master, was found on shore at the Cross Islands, by the U. S. Cutter Alert, a few days since. Lt. Noyes of the cutter, with such of the crew as could be spared, repaired on board of the wreck, and stripped her, and saved every article they could for the owners.

No less than 5000 persons and 80 carriages, attended the funeral of the eminent quaker physician, Dr. Joseph Parish, of Philadelphia.

**Child devoured by a Wolf.** The citizens of Coleman U. C., turned out last week to seek for the child of Mr. Ebenezer Farley, a boy 8 years of age, who was supposed to have got lost in the woods. A part of the lad's mangled limbs were found about 4 1-2 miles from his father's residence, and it is the general impression that he was attacked by the wolves, which animals abound in the neighborhood of Steep Mountain.

**Pigeons.** The Buffalo market is filled with wild pigeons, of which endless flocks have darkened the air during the last two weeks. The price of them is fifty cents per dozen.

More than 200 females were employed six months in manufacturing the lace dress and veil, worn by Queen Victoria at her marriage. Upwards of one hundred years of labor for one person was bestowed upon it, for which the scanty pittance of only \$4,500 was paid.

**Russian Barbarity to Poland.** What friend of human liberty does not weep over the wrongs inflicted on poor Poland by the Government of Russia? The London Sun relates the following:—"The son of Count Miontzyński (a retired officer of distinction) was lately returning from College in Germany, to his father's house at Warsaw. His luggage was searched at the frontier with the usual strictness; unfortunately there was found in one of his trunks printed portraits of Kosciuszko, Poniatowski, and Skrzynski. The poor lad was instantly taken into custody, and sent to Warsaw under a guard. On his arrival there his father was arrested by order of Marshal Paskiewitch who after a brief inquiry into the affair, sentenced Count Miontzyński to be imprisoned in a fortress, and his son a youth of sixteen or seventeen years of age, to be transported to Siberia for twenty years." Weep for poor Poland!

An inventor of water-proof shoes says that Methuselah lived to be nearly a thousand years old, and might have lived five hundred years more just as well as not, if he hadn't foolishly got his feet wet.

It is stated in the Louisville Journal, that the total loss of property in that city by the late destructive fire, is estimated at \$300,000. A large portion of it was insured by offices in that city. Thirty-eight buildings were burnt.

The Hon. Thaddeus Betts, Senator from Connecticut, died in Washington on Tuesday morning the 7th.



Jabez Fuller was tried in the Circuit Court held at White Plains, Westchester county; last week, for murdering a woman with whom he lived as his wife, found guilty and sentenced to be hung on the 22d of May. The murder was committed in a drunken quarrel between the parties.—*Poughkeepsie Eagle*.

A wealthy gentleman of Limerick, named Holland, and his wife, were recently fined £500 and sentenced to nine months imprisonment for inhumanity to two children whom they had taken as servants from an orphan society.

### MARRIED,

In Roadfield, 26th ult. by Eliab Lyon, Jr. Esq. Knowlton Penny of Augusta, to Miss Elizabeth Hill.

In Sumner, on the 2d inst. David Sewall, to Miss Louisa A. Stevens.

In Hallowell, 2d inst. by Rev. D. Forbes, Alonzo Tenney to Miss Sarah O. White.

### DIED,

In this town, Jan. 25th, Mrs. Elizabeth Ladd, formerly of N. Hampshire, aged 83. The pains of a protracted sickness she endured with much christian fortitude and patience. She consoled herself with the thought that she was in the hands of her God, and that he would be with her and suffer not the furnace of her afflictions to be heated only as should be needed to purify her soul from all its dross and sin, and to accomplish his own gracious purposes. In a calm and happy frame of mind she closed her eyes to the scenes of earth, and choirs of angels sung her to rest.—Papers in N. H. will please notice.

In Phillips, on the 8th inst., Asa Robbins Esq., aged 48.

At sea, on board brig Wm. Tell, for St. Thomas, 15th ult. Capt. James Riley, in the 63d year of his age, well known as the author of Riley's Narrative.

At sea 19th ult. James Dodge, seaman, of Bangor, aged 16, lost overboard.

In Hallowell, 8th inst. deacon James Hinkley, aged about 70.

### BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday April 6, 1840.

(From the New England Farmer.)

A<sub>1</sub> Market 300 Beef Cattle, 25 pairs of Working Oxen, 20 Cows and Calves, 310 Sheep and 1570 Swine. 40 Beef Cattle unsold.

PRICES.—Beef Cattle.—We quote to correspond with last week—about the same prices were obtained, viz: a few extra \$7—first quality at 6 50 a 6 75—second 6 a 6 25—third 5 50 a 6.

Working Oxen.—Sales at \$85, 92, 110, and 115. Cows and Calves.—Sales at \$24, 27, 31, 35, and 42. Sheep.—Lots were sold at \$3, 3 25, 4 25, 5, and a few at 6.

Swine.—Lots were sold to peddle at 4 1-2, and 4 3-4 for Sows, and 5 1-2 and 5 3-4 for Barrows. Large Barrows 5 1-4. At retail, 5 and 6 1-2.

### THE WEATHER.

Range of the Thermometer and Barometer at the office of the Maine Farmer.

Apr. 11	Thermom.	Barometer.	Weather.	Wind.
10.	32 66 63	29.75 29.70 29.65	F F F	S. SW
11.	45 44 39	29.85 29.90 29.85	R R C. N.	N E.
12.	40 54	29.70 28.65 29.	R C C. S.	S.
13.	44 46 47	29.35 29.55 29.75	F F F. W.	N W.
14.	29 59 40	29.90 29.95 29.80	F F C	N W. S S E.
15.	36 67 48	29.65 29.65 29.65	C F F. S S E.	S.
16.	34 57 45	29.65 29.70 29.65	F F F. E.	S S E.

F. for Fair weather; C. cloudy; S. snow; R. rain. The place of these letters indicate the character of the weather at each time of observation—viz. at sunrise, at noon, and at sunset. \* Below zero.

The direction of the wind is noted at sunrise and sunset.

### C. A. Pullen

HAS made arrangements with J. BRECK & Co. who have one of the largest establishments in N. England, & will furnish Seeds, Flowers and Trees of every variety & to any quantity at three days notice as cheap as can be bought in Boston. For any one wanting Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Herbaceous Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c. he would be pleased to forward orders to any amount they may want at the shortest notice.

Augusta, April 16, 1840.

### One Cent Reward.

RAN away ALEXANDER COMINGS JR., an indentured apprentice, bound to me by the overseers of the city of Portland as a pauper of said city, until the 28th day of July 1842. This is to forbid all persons from trusting him on my account, as I will not pay any expense after this date. Whoever will return said apprentice shall have the above reward, and no charges paid.

ELIJAH WOOD.

Winthrop, April 11th, 1840.

3w15\*

### Wholesale and Retail Seed Store.

THE subscriber is receiving by every Steam Boat a fresh supply of Garden Seeds. For sale wholesale and retail, cheap for cash

C. A. PULLEN.

Augusta, April 16, 1840.

### For Sale,

A GOOD single Horse WAGON. Enquire of B. H. CUSHMAN. Winthrop, April 16, 1840.

### To Country Merchants.

THE subscriber will be pleased to supply Country Merchants with their annual stock of Garden Seeds a little cheaper than they can get as good an article any where else in this State.

C. A. PULLEN.

Augusta, April 16, 1840.

### Iron Foundry,

Winthrop Street, HALLOWELL.

### Mill-Cranks, Rims, Gudgeons, spindles, and

CASTINGS of every description and Weight are now made at the above works, by experienced workmen. On hand

Fire Frames, Cook Stoves, Cast Wagon Hubs, Ploughs & Plough Castings, Cultivator Teeth, Sled and Sleigh Shoes, Patent Oven and Ash mouths, Cast Wagon and Pipe Boxes, Potash Kettles, Caldrons, Fire Pumps.

Turning in metals, and shafts and spindles can be executed at short notice.

Orders addressed to the subscriber, will receive immediate attention 12 J. P. FLAGG.

### Seed and Agricultural store.

C. A. PULLEN is now opening a fresh lot of genuine Garden Seeds, consisting of every kind of seed usually kept in a seed establishment.

Augusta, April 16, 1840.

### Notice.

THE subscriber will be able to answer orders for pigs through the season from the first of next month. A few of them are of the pure Bedford breed, and the rest from Bedford or Bedford and Mackey sows, all by the full blooded Berkshire boar exhibited by me last fall at the Cattle Show in Winthrop. The above named boar will be kept for sows during the summer.

Also, will be kept for cows at my farm, the bull BOLIVAR, which invites comparison and competition with any other bull of his age in this State.

J. W. HAINS.

Hallowell, 4th mo., 9th, 1840.

### New Seed Store at Augusta.

THIS day received per Steamer John W. Richmond, a new and fresh lot of Garden, Field and Flower Seeds, which will be sold wholesale and retail a little cheaper than they can be sold at any other place in this State.

C. A. PULLEN.

Augusta, April 16, 1840.

### LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the Post Office at Winthrop, April 1, 1840.

Austin Alden	Nelson David
Blake James W.	Pearl Cyril
Briggs Isaac C.	Palmer Benjamin
Belcher Alex. Esq.	Packard Ebenezer
Dudley Puinal	Perkins L.
Eastee Aaron (2)	Prescott Benj. R. (2)
Evers Lousa	Richardson Thomas
Fairbanks Alexander	Stanley Morrill
Fairbanks Levi Jr.	Seavey Marcian
Fairbanks Columbus	Sampson Emily A.
Gaslin Thomas	Tyler Martha
Griffith Wm. A.	Trulant Joshua Jr.
Grafton John	Tuffits Nath'l E.
Glidden J. & J.	Tryon Sarah
Lancaster Geo. W.	Vance Charety
Morgan Hannah	Warren D.
Marshall Moses	White Joel Jr.
Marr William	Whiting Elias
13	DAVID STANLEY, P. M.

### Seed Corn.

THE Subscriber having a kind of Seed Corn which he fully believes it would be much to the interest of farmers to have a portion of to plant the ensuing spring, would give notice that he shall deposit some of it at the Office of the Maine Farmer in Winthrop, at Ledge & Co.'s store in Augusta, at Stanford & Co.'s, Gardiner, and at his house, where those who wish may be supplied.

E. FOLSON.

Monmouth, Jan. 31, 1840.

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### Blanks.

THE following Blanks are kept constantly for sale at this office, viz: Mortgage, Warrantee and Quit claim Deeds—Writs—Executions—Confession Executions—Confessions—Copy of Judgment—Assessors' Commitments of Highway Taxes—Town Orders, and all other kinds of Blanks will be printed at short notice.

### Sir John Harvey.



THE subscriber gives notice that this prime young Bull will stand during the season at his farm in Winthrop. He is two years old, girts six feet four inches—weighs 1300 lbs. and is of a bright red color. He has not been pampered nor stall fed, his diet having been for the past winter good hay and a peck of turnips per day. Many of his calves may now be seen in different parts of the town, which give perfect satisfaction. He is a healthy and active animal, and sure in his performances.

This Bull is of good pedigree, and has taken premiums at the Worcester County Cattle Show, and also at the Kennebec County Cattle Show. He combines as many good points as any other animal of the kind.

Call and examine for yourselves.

ISAAC NELSON.

Winthrop, April 11, 1840.

### The Celebrated Ploughs,

MANUFACTURED by RUGGLES, NOURSE & MASON, of Worcester, Mass., and acknowledged to be the best and most perfect Ploughs now in use in respect to their peculiar form, materials, workmanship, and cheapness. ARE FOR SALE at their FACTORY, and by Messrs. ELLIS & BOYSON, No. 45, North-Market St., Boston; and in MAINE, at the MAINE FARMER OFFICE, Winthrop; and by Messrs. N. Winslow & Co., Portland; J. Stanford & Co., Gardiner; R. G. Lincoln, Hallowell; John Means, Augusta; Samuel Davis, Mt. Vernon; B. W. Varnum, Wayne; J. Smith, Jr., Readfield; Otis Hayford and Phineas Howe, Canton; Davis & Harlow, Strong; Ingers & Emerson, Mercer; Seward Dill, Phillips; Alfred Marshall, China; H. B. Horn, Vassaboro'; Strickland & Winslow, Bangor; J. C. Merrill & Co., North Lincoln; D. D. Vaughan, Levant; B. P. Gilman & Co., Sebec; John Howe, Abbot; Arey & Nourse, Hampden; Wm. Holmes, Frankfort; B. Hazeltine, Belfast; E. H. Dillingham, Camden; Charles Holmes and Oliver Robbins, Thomaston; Thos. Hodgman, Warren; Eben. Cobb, Union; Austin and Cottor, New Castle; Jacob Robinson, Bath; Holmes & Paine, Jay; H. W. Fairbanks, Farmington; B. M. Hardy, Wilton; Hodsdon and Spooner, New Portland; E. H. Neal, Skowhegan; James Bates, Norridgewock; C. Jewett, Athens; Smith and Stewart, Anson; Bartlett and Dexter, Harmony; M. S. Evans, Foxcroft; P. P. Pearson, Corinth; Jos. Farwell, Unity; Simeon Barker, Limerick; M. Fisher, Newport, Me., and at many other places.

P. S. To give assurance to purchasers that they can surely, easily and at all times procure points and other parts of castings for repairs, notice is here given that a full assortment of castings for the above purposes are constantly kept for sale by the Manufacturers and by those persons keeping the Ploughs for sale in Boston, Portland, Augusta, Bangor and Thomaston, and that all other dealers in the articles are supplied from the Manufactory with castings when ordered.

Many testimonials from committees and practical men could be inserted relative to the superiority of form, material, workmanship and cheapness of their Ploughs, but they are becoming too generally known to render them necessary.

March, 1840.

6w11

### Machine Shop and Iron Foundry.

HOLMES & ROBBINS would inform the public that they continue to carry on the MACHINE MAKING BUSINESS as usual, at the Village in GARDINER, where they will be in readiness at all times to accommodate those who may favor them with their custom. They have an IRON FOUNDRY connected with the Machine Shop, where persons can have almost every kind of Casting made at short notice. Persons wishing for Mill work or Castings for Mills, will find it particularly to their advantage to call, as the assortment of Patterns for that kind of work is very extensive and as good as can be found in any place whatever.

Castings of various kinds kept constantly on hand—such as Cart and Wagon Hubs of all sizes, Fire-Frames, Oven, Ash and Boiler Mouths, Cart and Wagon Boxes, Gears of different kinds and sizes, &c. &c.

All orders for Machinery or Castings executed on the most reasonable terms, without delay.

Repairing done as usual.

Gardiner, March 21, 1840.

1y12



## POETRY.

Original.

March 30th, 1840.

MR HOLMES:—Having read with some interest in a late number of the Farmer, some lines written by Helen, (a Sidney school girl) I am induced to relate an incident, which occurred a few days since, while on a visit to the family of an esteemed friend, a respectable farmer of that town. I was told by a sister that Olive (whose age is about 14, and whose advantages for acquiring an education have been such only as are afforded by our common town schools) possessed a talent for writing poetry. After much solicitation I was permitted to look over some of her productions; when upon my expressing some scruples in reference to their originality, she desired me to give out a subject, and she would endeavor to satisfy me on that point. I gave two, upon each of which she wrote with great facility and with about the same merit. I herewith send one of the pieces for publication, that your readers may judge whether these Sidney girls have not tasted the waters of the true Castalian fountain.

S.

## ON THE DEATH OF AN INFANT.

A beauteous flower came forth at morn,  
With leaves expanded wide;  
But when it felt the scorching sun,  
It drooped its head and died.

Thus entered she this tearful vale,  
A loved and lovely child;  
Untainted by the world's vain breath,  
By sin, all undefiled.

Awhile to cheer her parents hearts,  
This lovely flower was given;  
But soon she bade farewell to earth,  
And went to dwell in Heaven.

She went ere yet in paths of sin,  
Her little feet had trod;  
Her stainless spirit freed from clay,  
Has flown to meet its God.

'Tis Nature's right that parents mourn,  
For one thus early fled;  
But this sweet thought their hearts should cheer,  
"She sleeps, but is not dead."

Though to the cold and silent grave,  
Her mortal part's consigned,  
Yet, still her soul now dwells above,  
From every dross refined.

No more shall aught disturb her peace  
Nor she a fear shall know;  
She's gone to dwell where all is love,  
And joys forever flow.

OLIVE.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Original

## THE FARMER—AS HE IS, AS HE SHOULD BE.

MR HOLMES:—So much has lately been said of the farmer and his employments, that it is, perhaps worse than useless for me to try to add anything new or interesting upon the subject. So many experienced and talented writers have figured before the public, "bringing forth things new and old" out of the treasury of well-stored and scientific minds, that there is left hardly a nook or corner, in which originality can delight herself. But it is a subject, that although it may have been viewed and reviewed, and closely examined in almost every place, yet is still as interesting as ever, it not more so. So therefore, having a deep interest in the affairs of the farmer, it may, possibly, not be amiss for me to add my humble testimony to the almost innumerable number now before the world, that by the mouth of many "witnesses every word may be established."

It is instructive to look around and behold the various nations and communities of men, in their several relations in society, to mark the prosperous and the unhappy, to notice the cause of this good or evil, and to view the benefits, each class brings upon the whole community. We shall find many useful classes, and most of them of some advantage to the world. But among them all, honesty will constrain us to give the farmer the first rank. Do we behold a nation flourishing, increasing in wealth and population, spreading forth its branches "like a green bay tree," holding an honorable station among the nations, and diffusing blessings innumerable to its neighbors? There we shall find agriculture well attended to! there the intelligent and active farmer, the movers of this great wheel, which turns up so many blessings. He is emphatically the "back bone of nations." By him they are supported and held together. By him they move along mightily in their onward course, with honor and prosperity. His iron sinews form their strength in

war, in peace they are exerted to fill to overflowing the measure of their happiness. His power is their power, his renown, their renown. When his country is invaded, he rushes forth lion-like to its defence and seeks redress in honorable contest; and when again its beautiful hills and pleasant valleys are gladdened by the sweet beams of peace, he follows his more glorious plough. He supplies the world with the rewards of his toils, and fills it with his benevolence. All are indebted to him, all dependant upon him. Remove him, and you remove "parvis componere magna," the sun from his throne in the heavens. There would be no centre, to which all things could be attracted, no great regulator for a standard to try the world by. There would be a total blank in creation, and all things would come to ruin. The well cultivated fields would become a barren plain, and beautiful landscapes, a desert waste. Ceres would cease to smile on the earth, and to be the bountiful giver of harvests. All things would glide away, "ut facilis descensus Averno." Few would be sauntering in the streets, and loafers would go "the way of all the earth." Activity would cease, and "the sound of the grinding would be low." The foundation would be removed, the buildings would fall, and desolation be written on every object. His is the only, the hard-earned, the true nobility. No class, according to its numbers can rank with him in honesty, high moral feeling, and nobleness of soul. He scorns small actions, and pursues the even tenor of his way, regardless of the smiles or frowns of the gay and foolish world. He looks abroad upon the family of man, which he is rendering prosperous and happy, by his praise-worthy exertions, and feels that innate joy, which results from good actions. Such, (I speak not of him, who is called a farmer but is not) is the farmer, a character more to be envied, if envy should at all exist, than the most powerful prince on the face of the earth. He leads a most honorable life, sweetened by industry and toil. He has the pleasure of knowing, that what he digs from the ground is so much added to the great whole, that no one is injured thereby, and that it is not dishonorably wrung from his neighbors pockets. He is the most independent man in the world. He looks about over his possessions, with the honest pride of being "lord of all he surveys with none his right to dispute." When fatigued with the labors of the day under the hot sun, he seats himself in his rural bower at noon, he can most emphatically sing,

My smiling pastures fresh and green,  
At every step may now be seen.  
At sultry noon mid the green trees,  
I sit to catch the passing breeze,  
And listen to the music shrill,  
Which echoes back from ev'ry hill,  
From thousand songsters far and near,  
Sound so soothing, soft, and clear.

He has the most glorious opportunities for contemplation and improvement. The whole combined, and heart-stirring works of nature are constantly before him, furnishing an ever opening field of research. Now calmly and slowly sable night comes on. The sun has set behind the distant hills, and the golden tints mark the Western horizon. Now sinks the world to rest, hushed in the bustle of active life, and every thing becomes calm. The farmer, having performed his daily task, is enjoying the sweets of the cool evening, composed in mind and filled with noble thoughts. He casts his eyes into the starry vault, views the "handy works" of his Creator, and chants his evening song, while taking a view of

The num'rous glit'ring orbs of night,  
All spread out a glorious sight;  
There contemplation now may soar,  
Where worlds and space are seen no more.  
Then having taken full survey,  
He is content and goes away  
From viewing worlds, which shine so bright,  
To take his rest with great delight.

His sleep is delightful, gently interrupted by pleasant dreams, and he rises fresh and vigorous for the labor before him. Each season brings its peculiar duty and pleasure to him. Spring renews the face of nature, clothes it with beauty, and gives him a time to put in his seed. Summer hastens on to the consummation of his hopes; still nature is in all her loveliness and peace in every grove. Sheaf-clad Autumn comes to fill the measure of his desires, requite all his toils, and inspire him with gratitude for all these blessings. Now all things wear a solemn aspect; fast fall the unnumbered leaves around; the fields have lost their beauty, and every thing seems to be preparing for some dreadful visitor. The much-dreaded winter furnishes him leisure, a cessation of his more severe duties, and a time for improvement. While old Boreas growls dismally around his dwelling, within all is peace and plenty, and he, before his cheery fire, is either teaching his children, or adding to his own stock of knowledge. He is at rest and at peace with all men, free from the embarrassments and allurements of other classes, he remains the rural king of his own possessions, without the desire of unlawfully increasing them. For it is undoubtedly true, as Plutarch observes, that, "No occupation implants so speedily and

so effectual a love of peace, as a country life; where there remains indeed courage and bravery sufficient to defend their property, but the temptations to injustice and avarice are removed."

Although farmers are all that we have represented them, yet they are far from being what they ought to be. Too long have they been contented to be the best and most useful of men, without considering to what higher degrees at perfection, they might bring their profession; and that instead of being thought by the frivolous world, as among the lower classes, and not worthy to associate with men of professions, they should have exploded this most foolish and prevalent idea, and caused this occupation to be considered the most honorable of all. This must be done, "et hic labor est." His, it is proper to remark, is now being done to some extent. Within a few years there has been a great "making up" to this subject. Let this be continued and increased ten fold. Let the antipathy, born in ignorance and brought up by prejudice, against "book-farming" as it is called, which has been so long and tenaciously adhered to, worthy farmers, be done away. Let science and experience, through the medium of books and periodicals, be called into their aid. While rapid improvements are made in mechanics and in almost every thing else, let them not stay behind. Let them bring their business to such a state that the bright shining plough shall be the greatest badge of honor; and men of all professions shall be flocking to their ranks from every quarter. Let them when they have made successful experiments in any branch communicate them, and have their knowledge as common property. Let them expect that toil shall be considered honorable, "The only true manhood, the only true nobility." They should pay greater attention to education; generally diffused education, which is the greatest safeguard of free institutions. And as liberty is especially entrusted to them, being the larger class, they should prepare themselves with all due care for their duty. They should not trust to lawyers, nor to anybody else, to manage their concerns. They should be, "President and director" of their own affairs, civil and political. They all, if possible, should acquire education sufficient to fill any office they may be called to in life; so that Cincinnatus like they can fill the office of Dictator, lead forth victorious armies and follow the plough. The intellect and perseverance necessary for the accomplishment of great objects is among them. As a proof of this they sometimes send a Washington into the military, a Webster into the political, and a Rittenhouse into the scientific ranks, who shine forth as the sun in his brightness at noon-day, and illumine the world with their splendor. They should therefore cultivate this, that there may be an abundance of defence for the free institutions and social liberty of our happy country; and that there may never a breeze blow over its green hills and fertile valleys, which is not purely republican. They should banish envy, repel slander and contention, and protect good morals, that they may be like a great band of acquiring brothers, rendering each other happy and sustaining the world. Thus they should go on, improving in every department, till the name of farmer shall be esteemed the true appellation of greatness, the highest title of renown.

EPHEBUS.

Farmington, March 2, 1840.

## The Maine Farmer,

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